## CONTENTS

**Preface**  
*page ix*

**Introduction**  
1

**Part I**  
England’s Milton  
1 Milton’s politics  
2 Milton’s moral idealism  
3 Milton as literary hero  
11  
22  
33

**Part II**  
After Milton: literary possibilities  
4 The traditional genres  
Epic  
Pastoral  
Classical tragedy  
Masque  
45  
5 Adaptations: re-making Milton  
Translations and corrections  
Milton on the stage  
62  
6 New genres  
The evening poem  
Mock-epic  
Novel  
“Christian poetry”  
72  
7 Regaining paradise  
“The world was all before them”  
Retirement poems  
Pleasures of imagination: Akenside and Young  
An English Eden: Philips and Dyer  
Miltonic marriage  
101
CONTENTS

Part III
The major writers

8 Dryden 137

Dryden’s literary heritage
Dryden’s criticism of Milton
The State of Innocence
Dryden’s heroic poems: Absalom and Achitophel, The Hind and the Panther, and the Aeneis

9 Pope 155

“Constant remembrance”
The early Pope: Pastorals, Windsor Forest, and The Rape of the Lock
An Essay on Man
The Dunciad

10 Thomson 179

Thomson’s blank verse
“II Penseroso” and The Seasons
Paradise Lost and The Seasons
Paradise unlost
Edenic evenings

11 Johnson 203

Johnson and the biographical tradition
Johnson Agonistes

12 Cowper 217

Cowper the Miltonist
Recovered paradise

Afterword: notes toward an eighteenth-century theory of literary influence 229

Notes 239

Index 293